

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ARGENTINA: THE END FOR MRS. PERON?

EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES REPORTS THAT THE POLITICAL SITUATION
IN ARGENTINA HAS REACHED THE CRITICAL STAGE.

--LABOR, REJECTING ANY COMPROMISE, IS PREPARING TO
PRESENT AN ULTIMATUM TO THE GOVERNMENT DEMANDING
SWEEPING POLITICAL CHANGES;

--THE ECONOMIC MINISTER HAS SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNA-
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TION IN THE MIDST OF A WORSENING ECONOMIC CRISIS.

THE PRESS CONTINUES TO CARRY STORIES THAT MRS. PERON

WILL ASK FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO DEPART THE COUNTRY FOR HEALTH REASONS, ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN AN OFFICIAL DENIAL OF THESE RUMORS. EMBASSY SOURCES AGREE THAT SHOULD MRS. PERON DEPART, SHE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO RETURN.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE CONSENSUS OF EMBASSY SOURCES IS THAT THE END FOR MRS. PERON'S GOVERNMENT IS NEAR.

(CONFIDENTIAL) BUENOS AIRES 4827, 7/18.

2. JAPANESE-KOREAN RELATIONS IMPROVING

EMBASSY TOKYO REPORTS THAT EVENTS LIKE THE US REAFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT FOR SOUTH KOREA AND THE US HANDLING OF THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT HAVE EASED JAPAN'S POST-VIETNAM JITTERS. RESIDUAL ANXIETY REMAINS, HOWEVER, AND TO PROVE TO THE US AND ROK THAT JAPAN CARES AS MUCH ABOUT SOUTH KOREA AS IT SAYS:

--THE JAPANESE ARE ACTIVELY SUPPORTING SOUTH KOREA AT THE UN, AND APPROVE THE PLAN TO ABOLISH THE UN COMMAND IN SOUTH KOREA.

--THE GOJ HAS EXTENDED SEVERAL LONGTERM LOANS TO SOUTH KOREA AND HAS SUSPENDED GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT FOR TRADE TO NORTH KOREA.

--IT IS PURSUING DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WHICH COULD LEAD TO AN EVENTUAL SUMMIT MEETING. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 9695, 7/18.

3. PHILIPPINES SCALING DOWN ITS REASSESSMENT GOALS?

EMBASSY MANILA COMMENTS THAT SINCE MARCOS' RETURN FROM CHINA GOP OFFICIALS HAVE BALANCED CONTINUED CALLS FOR PHILIPPINE SELF-RELIANCE WITH A STEADY STREAM OF STATEMENTS INDICATING THE PHILIPPINES WILL NOT TURN
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COMMUNIST AND WILL SUPPORT ITS OLD ALLIES. IT ADDS:

--THE POWERFUL PROVINCIAL CONSERVATIVES, WHO INCLUDE THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP, HAVE BEEN CONSISTENTLY CRITICAL OF MARCOS' POLICY TRENDS, BELIEVING ANY OPENING TO THE COMMUNISTS WILL INVITE INSURGENCY PROBLEMS, EVEN IF THE PRC IS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

--AWARE OF THESE ANXIETIES, MARCOS' SECURITY

REASSESSMENT GOALS WILL LIKELY BE APPRECIABLY
MORE CONSERVATIVE THAN THE ATMOSPHERICS CREATED
BY HIS STAFF. (CONFIDENTIAL) MANILA 9896, 7/18

4. ONE VIEW OF WHY EGYPT VOTED AGAINST ISRAEL

A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD EMBASSY CAIRO THAT EGYPT
COMPROMISED ON THE ISRAEL/UN RESOLUTION AS A TACTIC TO
THWART PALESTINIAN EFFORTS TO HAVE THE ISLAMIC FOREIGN
MINISTERS REPUDIATE RESOLUTION 242. EGYPT BELIEVES
THAT BECAUSE THE ENTIRE MATTER IS NOW TIED TO IMPLI-
MENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS, PROGRESS ON
A SECOND STAGE DISENGAGEMENT WILL RENDER THE JIDDA
RESOLUTION A MOOT POINT. (CONFIDENTIAL) CAIRO 7077,
7/18. KISSINGER

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